

12/21/01

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

23 In re United States Continuation Application
of Serial No.: 09/542,487 filed April 3, 2000

10/627,449
Applicant(s): Richard A. Mazur et al.

Filing Date: December 21, 2001

For: Method and Apparatus for Document
Processing

) Group Art Unit: 3652

) Examiner: Mark J. Beauchaine

) Attorney Docket No.: 47171-00262USC2

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Attn: Box Patent Application

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. 1.8

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, Attention: Box Patent Application.

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Adrienne White

Sir:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/542,487, filed April 3, 2000. Prior to examining the subject application, please enter the following amendments to the application as originally filed.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace page 2, lines 4-17, beginning the following paragraphs.

--This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/542,487, filed April 3, 2000. U.S. Patent Application No. 09/542,487 is a continuation of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 08/864,423, which issued on November 6, 2001 as U.S. Patent No. 6,311,819, filed May 28, 1997 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Document Processing", which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/542,487 is a continuation-in-part and further claims the benefit of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/126,580, filed July 30, 1998 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Discriminating and Counting Documents", which ^{is a continuation} ~~claims the benefit~~ of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/573,392, which was issued on August 4, 1998 as U.S. Patent No. 5,790,697 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Discriminating and Counting Documents".

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/864,423 claims the benefit of Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/018,563 filed May 29, 1996 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Document Identification and Authentication", 60/034,954 filed January 16, 1997 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Document Processing", and 60/038,340 filed February 27, 1997 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Document Processing."

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/864,423 is a continuation-in-part and further claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/800,053, which was issued on November 30, 1999 as U.S. Patent No. 5,992,601 entitled "Method and Apparatus for Document Identification and Authentication". --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-163 as originally filed in the parent application without prejudice.

Please add new claims 164-261.

--164. A compact, high-speed United States currency evaluation device for receiving a stack of currency bills and rapidly evaluating all the bills in the stack, the device comprising:

an input receptacle adapted to receive a stack of United States currency bills of a plurality of denominations to be evaluated;

two or more output receptacles adapted to receive the bills after the bills have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism adapted to transport the bills, one at a time, along a transport path from the input receptacle to the output receptacles at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute;

a discriminating unit adapted to count and denominate the bills including United States bills of a plurality of denominations at a rate of at least 800 bills per minute, the discriminating unit including a detector positioned along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacles; and